

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 759
By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to recognize the many contributions of Colonel Philip L. Hooper of Dickson on the occasion of the observance of the bicentennial celebration of the founding of Dickson County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are particularly pleased to celebrate historic milestones in the histories of the counties of this state and to specially recognize the significant contributions of leading citizens of such counties and their communities to their growth and development; and

WHEREAS, one such progressive community is Dickson County, which has been celebrating its bicentennial, and one such outstanding citizen is the late Colonel Philip L. Hooper, an outstanding military officer, prominent businessman, and community leader; and

WHEREAS, although the grandson of legendary Dickson County figure W.W. "Old Hickory" Smith, a former Mayor of Dickson, Philip Hooper was born in Denison, Texas to Harry H. and Anna Smith Hooper and grew up in Colver, Pennsylvania before enrolling in the Staunton Military Academy in Virginia at age 13; he then majored in mechanical engineering at Lehigh University; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, Colonel Philip Hooper was commissioned into the United States Army Reserves, and by age 21, he was the professor of military science and tactics at Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas, where he served as Commandant for 870 cadets from 1936 to 1940; and

WHEREAS, having joined the Texas National Guard in 1937, becoming a member of the 112th Horse Cavalry Regiment, E Troop of the 56th Cavalry Brigade, during World War II Colonel Hooper served with his National Guard unit in the Pacific for 42 months, seeing action in nine spearhead landings including New Britain, Aitape, Arawe and action in the Philippines before the occupation of mainland Japan; and

WHEREAS, during his service in the Pacific, he was rapidly promoted from Second Lieutenant to Colonel and served as a troop commander, chief of staff for two task forces and regimental commander under General Douglas MacArthur, as well as being involved in the freeing of U.S. prisoners of war from internment camps; and

WHEREAS, remaining in military service after the war, Colonel Philip Hooper served on General Dwight Eisenhower's staff in Washington, D.C., was assigned to the Eniwetok-Bikini atomic weapons program in 1950, and in 1952, he attended the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, initiating his extensive involvement with the development of atomic weapons, Colonel Hooper was assigned to serve in Los Alamos, New Mexico and from 1954 to 1958 he served in Paris, France at the NATO Defense College and Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers of Europe; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to the United States, Colonel Philip Hooper served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for atomic energy at the Pentagon during both the Eisenhower and Kennedy Administrations which included the responsibility to personally brief Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy on a monthly basis as to the status of the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1962 as the Commander of Christmas Island during atomic testing, Colonel Hooper observed 67 atomic tests becoming the witness to more atomic weapon detonations than any other person in history; and

WHEREAS, from 1963-1965 Colonel Hooper served as Chief of Staff of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas helping to prepare the division for deployment to Vietnam before ending his illustrious and extensive military career with a two-year temporary duty in Washington, D.C., for which he made eight trips to Vietnam, testing and developing seismic sensors, starlight scopes, and other equipment; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Philip Hooper retired from the Army in 1968 and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

WHEREAS, returning to the home of his ancestors, Colonel Hooper and his beloved wife, Jane settled in Dickson and he accepted a position as Resident Vice President with the L&N Railroad, now CSX Transportation; and

WHEREAS, understanding the economic and community impact the railroad had on Dickson County, Colonel Hooper was a tireless champion for recruiting new industries to the area and became a mentor to many railroad employees who sought his wisdom and expertise. By his retirement from the railroad in 1984, he had been promoted to Senior Vice President. In 2002, at the Dickson County Old Timer's Day, the railroad bestowed on Colonel Hooper the rare tribute of naming a locomotive in his honor; and

WHEREAS, a true officer and a gentleman, Colonel Hooper was greatly admired and respected by all his friends and neighbors of Dickson County who acknowledge that he was instrumental in the recruitment of nearly all of Dickson's local industries through his work with the railroad and the Dickson County Industrial Board; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Philip Hooper was an active and devout member of the First Presbyterian Church in Dickson, which he served faithfully for many years as a trustee and elder; he also worked assiduously to garner valuable support for the church's scholarship program; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Philip Hooper enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of 65 years, Jane Wilson Hooper, and was the proud parent of Colonel Ruth Lynn Hooper, Philip L. Hooper, Jr. and his wife, Elizabeth; he was also blessed with four grandchildren, Scott N. Mead, Jennifer H. Arnosky, Joanna J. Hooper, and Paul L. Hooper; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Philip L. Hooper's long and outstanding contributions to the growth and prosperity of his community are worthy of our deep appreciation and have clearly helped make Dickson County what it is today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the citizens of Dickson County in celebrating their bicentennial and in specially honoring the many laudable contributions of Colonel Philip L. Hooper to the

growth and prosperity of Dickson County and to the admirable quality of life enjoyed by its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to family members of Colonel Philip Hooper with this final clause omitted from such copy.